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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3492
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2847
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 6771
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 0105
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0671
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0003
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0002
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1467

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000701

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [BT](#) [NL](#)
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS: IDEAS ON BHUTANESE REFUGEE CORE GROUP

REF: A. MWEINBERG EMAIL 11-13-09
[1](#)B. THE HAGUE 686

Classified By: PolEcon Counselor Andrew C. Mann for reasons 1.5(b,d)

(C) The Dutch have several ideas for revitalizing the Bhutanese Refugee Core Group. In a November 16 follow-up discussion on reftel, Robert Quarles van Ufford, Coordinator for Africa in the MFA Asylum and Migration Department, welcomed the readout of PDAS Witten's visit to South Asia (ref email). Quarles said the Core Group "needs oxygen" and is "almost dead." MFA Policy Officer Lucien noted that, in preparation for the Netherlands' 2010 presidency of the Core Group, the Netherlands would push for a return to the "original mission," and pursue a "durable solution" rather than sustained technical assistance on resettlement. The Netherlands is considering a mid-term review of activities to assess progress and prospects for future action. Asked how the international community could make progress beyond a tally of current efforts, Quarles suggested four tactics: (1) follow Denmark's approach of bringing test cases to Bhutan, (2) discuss with Bhutan the prospect of accepting the "most acceptable" of the four refugee groups, (3) inventory development aid to Bhutan with an eye toward finding points of leverage with the GOB, and (4) in a more cooperative approach, develop a "package deal" involving all the participants that will provide a sustainable solution in everyone's interest. Quarles concluded that the Netherlands finds itself more closely aligned with U.S. policy, as our approach has moved from "don't rock the boat" and simply continuing with resettlement toward a more strategic endeavor.
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